

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated October 5, 2004, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

In order to advance prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the contribution of the invention over the prior art, various ones of the dependent claims have been amended to place them in better form, and new claims 7-9 have been added to further define novel features of the present invention.

For purposes of clarification, it will be assumed that the rejection presented in section 1 of the Action was intended to relate to claims 1-5 and the rejection presented in section 2 of the Action was intended to relate to claims 1 and 6. The explanation of the rejection presented in section 2 of the Action concerns limitations appearing in claim 6 and not in claim 5.

The exercise drawing assembly now defined in claim 1 is not disclosed in Simonson, and is not suggested by any reasonable combination of the teachings of Simonson and Sechrest.

In order to more clearly define the contribution of the invention over the prior art, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the relationships between the axes about which the arms can be pivoted and the directions in which the ropes can be pulled by a user. Specifically, and as is readily apparent from the Application drawing, the assembly according to the present invention is constructed in such a manner that the ropes will be pulled by the user in a direction that lies in a plane that is common to the axes about which the arms pivot

relative to the controlling members. This arrangement is totally different from that disclosed by either Simonson or Sechrest, in which the ropes can only be pulled in directions that form a substantial angle with respect to any plane passing through the axes about which the arms can rotate. Since neither of these references discloses that feature of the invention, it is clear that claim 1 cannot be considered to be obvious in view of any combination of the teachings thereof.

It is further noted that, in this respect, the present invention distinguishes over the cited patent to Hoecht.

It is noted that claims 2-5 (see comment above regarding identity of rejected claims) were rejected only as anticipated by Simonson. Since claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by that reference, it is believed that claims 2-5 are *prima facie* allowable.

Claim 7 defines an additional feature that further distinguishes over at least Sechrest. In that reference, the arms are mounted in a manner to be pivoted about two mutually perpendicular axes.

Claim 8 further limits claim 1 by specifying that, as shown in the Application drawing, each of the axes of rotation of the arms is parallel to the direction in which the holding members are able to be pulled.

Claim 9 further distinguishes over the prior art by defining structural features of each arm not disclosed in any of the references here under consideration.

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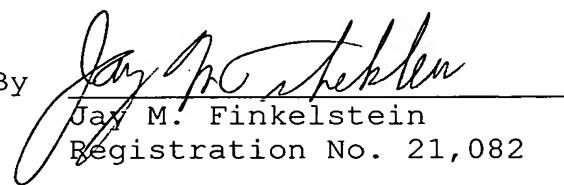
In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn, that claims 1-3 and 5-9 be allowed and the Application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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